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TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, CPA, CFE  
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HEARING: 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Bill 45, Rail Surcharge - COMMENTS

Aloha Chair Menor and Councilmembers,

Thank you for considering my testimony on Bill 45, CD1, which revises our county ordinances to meet certain requirements under Senate Bill 4 (SB4), which Governor Ige has stated he will sign prior to the council meeting. The Budget and Transportation Committees held a joint meeting Thursday, August 31, to consider Bill 45 and hold a discussion on SB 4. Prior to the meeting, I asked the clerk's office if they had a committee draft of the bill. I was told they did not.

No mention was made of a hand-carried CD1 until testimony had been taken. I do not have time right now to check to see if this meets council rules, but **it certainly is not a fair way to do business with the public. The hand-carried CD1 was only available to the public after the meeting.**

I have a number of concerns regarding the bill, which I have stated publicly several times.

I oppose the extension of the surcharge and am concerned that not enough is being done to reduce costs within HART or the city. For example, I had suggested that new employees for the Office of Climate Change and Department of Land Management not be hired. A new employee was just recently hired for the Office of Climate Change. The fiscally prudent thing to do is hold off on hiring any new employees and plan how the city is going to cover HART's operating budget and future operating costs.